

SECTION 203: APPLICABILITY; PREEMPTION

This section applies to any product liability action brought in federal or state court. Civil actions for commercial loss are excluded from the applicability of this title.

In addition, this section clarifies that the preemption of state law by this title is limited to only those issues specifically addressed by the legislation and not other unrelated liability laws.

SECTION 204: LIABILITY RULES APPLICABLE TO PRODUCT SELLERS, RENTERS AND LESSORS

This section provides that product sellers other than the manufacturer (such as wholesaler distributors and retailers) may be held liable only if they are directly at fault for the harm; if the harm was caused by the failure of the product to conform to the product seller's own, independent express warranty; or if the harm was the result of the product seller's intentional wrongdoing.

However, the provision ensures that product sellers will "stand in the shoes" of a culpable manufacturer when the manufacturer is judgment-proof. In addition, the statute of limitations in such cases is tolled.

Finally, this section specifies that product renters and lessors will not be liable for the tortious acts of another solely by reason of product ownership.

SECTION 205: FEDERAL CAUSE OF ACTION PRECLUDED

This section clarifies that the bill does not create federal district court jurisdiction pursuant to Section 1331 or Section 1337 of Title 28, United States Code.

TITLE III: EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 301: EFFECTIVE DATE

This section provides that the bill's provisions will apply to any civil action commenced after the date of enactment of the legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE YMCA COMMUNITY SERVICES NEW MILLENNIUM PROGRAM GRADUATION

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of citizens in Northern Virginia who will be celebrating their graduation from the YMCA Community Services New Millennium Program on Friday, May 11, 2001. Forty-eight people will be receiving their certificates for completing this challenging program.

The New Millennium Program is a joint, after-school effort run by Arlington Public Schools, Arlington Community Television and YMCA Community Services Department. It is also the only television program exclusively for youth in this area. It has been in existence for two years and has been extremely successful. The goal of the Program is to teach volunteer secondary school students the field of video production. After receiving instruction from the staff of Channel 33, the students pick a subject, and then write, film and edit their work.

The Metropolitan YMCA Community Services Office and its predecessor, The Refugee Services Office, based in Arlington, have been providing multi-cultural programs for our evermore-diverse and dynamic population for over twenty years.

The YMCA Community Services Office has been instrumental in opening doors for people

who have come here from all over the world. Among the many services provided are:

English as a Second Language classes for adults during the evening hours.

After-school tutorials for students so that they keep pace with their peers.

Multi-cultural and adaptation workshops for adults and teens and their families to ease "culture shock."

Millennium Youth Program designed to focus on technology, its impact on youth, and approaches for positive influence on the target audience.

Interpreting and translating services.

Job placement and housing referral service.

The above programs, staffed and executed almost entirely by volunteers, are an admirable example of how a few people can make a positive difference in the lives of many.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my congratulations to the individuals who have completed this program. It is truly an honor to have individuals like this in our community.

I ask that all of my colleagues join me in commending this hardworking group.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN LANDIS RUTH

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. John Landis Ruth. Dr. Ruth compiled an exhibit, part of the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, which illustrates the "Route 113 Corridor" in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Route 113 winds its way through central Montgomery County and is arguably one of the most historic roads in the county.

Dr. Ruth was born on his family's eight-generation homestead in Lower Salford, Montgomery County. He is a graduate of Eastern College and Harvard University where he earned his Ph.D. in English and American Literature. He later returned to Eastern College as a teacher, and also taught at the University of Hamburg in Germany.

Dr. Ruth has authored numerous books and articles on the Mennonite people and their way of life and produced films about the Mennonites and the Amish. He served as the Associate Minister of the Salford Mennonite congregation for twenty years. Following his retirement from the ministry in 1993, Dr. Ruth has continued to serve on the Board of the Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania. He currently is working on a multi-volume narrative interpretation of Mennonite life in the Lower Salford/Franconia area.

Dr. John Landis Ruth's photographic expertise and work have been invaluable in helping to preserve the history of our community. It is an honor and a privilege to recognize him as his works are showcased at the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit and the outstanding contributions he has made.

HONORING JUDGE ELDON B. MAHON

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great citizen, Federal Judge Eldon B. Mahon from the Northern District of Texas. Judge Mahon has dedicated his life to public service and justice. For these reasons, I have introduced legislation that will designate the United States courthouse located at 501 West 10th Street in Fort Worth, Texas, as the "Eldon B. Mahon United States Courthouse."

Judge Mahon was born and raised in the west Texas town of Loraine. He went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts Degree in history and government from McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. Judge Mahon then attended the University of Texas Law School where he graduated in 1942. He has three children with his wife, Nova Lee: Jana Cobb of Lubbock, Texas; Martha Haag of The Woodlands, Texas; and Brad Mahon of Fort Worth, Texas.

Like so many from America's "greatest generation", he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps to fight overseas during World War II. He left the military after 40 months of dedicated service, including one year in the South Pacific with the 5th Bomber Wing, as a captain.

Judge Mahon carried this same dedication and strength of character into his career as an attorney and judge. From 1945-46, he served as the briefing attorney for the Supreme Court of Texas. From 1948-60, Judge Mahon served as district attorney for the 32nd Judicial District of Texas, covering Nolan, Mitchell, Scurry, and Borden counties. After his years as district attorney, Judge Mahon became a district judge for the 32nd Judicial District, presiding over that court from 1961-63. He then moved to Fort Worth to take a position as vice president of Texas Electric Service Company. After one year in the corporate world, the law called him back; and he became a partner in the Abilene, Texas, law firm of Mahon, Pope & Gladdon.

Judge Mahon entered public service at the federal level when President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed him U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas. Judge Mahon is a life long Democrat, but President Richard M. Nixon appointed him to the Federal Court for the Northern District of Texas in 1972. He reached senior status in 1989 and continues to be an active member of the federal bench today at the young age of 83.

During his years on the federal bench, Judge Mahon presided over the racial integration of the Fort Worth School District. Judge Mahon considers this as the greatest accomplishment of his court.

Judge Mahon has tirelessly served every community of which he has been a part. He is a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, serving in most lay positions in Westcliff United Methodist Church in Fort Worth. He is a past president of the West Texas Girl Scout Council in Abilene and of the Colorado City, Texas, Lions Club. Judge Mahon is a past member of the Board of Trustees at McMurry University in Abilene and served on the Board of Trustees for Harris Methodist Health System in Fort Worth. Currently, he serves on the Board of Trustees at